

HOW TO CLEAN A SAND FILTER



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Sand filters should be cleaned at least once per season, preferably in the fall before closing. You should also clean your sand filter after encountering bouts of algae.

- 1 Backwash the filter for 3-5 minutes to ensure large organic debris is out of the sand.
- 2 Turn off the pool pump. If there is a valve in front of the pump, make sure it is closed. Valves are used when the pool pump sits lower than the pool so will more commonly be used on above ground pools.
- 3 Remove the lid and basket of the pump.
- 4 With the pump lid off, turn the pump on. The pump will push water into the filter, but it will not pull water from the pool.
- 5 Empty the contents of **FILTER CLEANER** into the pump housing.
 - It is a good idea to have a bucket of clean water to pour into the pump directly after the filter cleaner. This will ensure that there is no residue left in the bottom of the pump housing.
- 6 Turn off the pump once the filter cleaner and the clean water have entered the filter (approximately 30-60 seconds).
- 7 Leave the pump off to let the filter cleaner soak in the filter for 8-12 hours. Open the valve at the front of the pump if applicable. Ensure the pump lid has been put back in place before opening the valve.
- 8 After the appropriate time has elapsed, turn the filter dial to backwash and backwash **for 3-5 minutes**. The backwash time depends on the size of the filter. If the filter is not backwashed for the proper amount of time, there may be cleaner residue left in the sand. If it gets into the pool water, it can cause balancing and clouding issues.
- 9 After the filter has been backwashed, turn the pump off and switch the filter dial to the rinse position. Rinse the filter for 30-60 seconds.
- 10 Turn off the pump and switch the filter dial back to the filter position.
- 11 Turn the pump back on.

It is much easier to clean your filter media at the end of the season rather than waiting until the beginning of the season. If all the dirt and oil has had time to settle over the winter, it can cause calcification issues resulting in the need to change the media.

Sand filters may also need to be cleaned in season if you are encountering persistent water quality issues.

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